

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,346,300 to Ruepping. Ruepping was cited as disclosing a fluoroelastomer composition comprising an elastomer containing brominated or iodinated olefin, a multifunctional crosslinking agent and a photoinitiator.

Applicants traverse and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider in view of the amendment to claim 1 and the following remarks.

Particularly, the amendment to claim 1 limits the claimed polymer composition which is crosslinkable with ultraviolet rays to one which comprises a polymer containing 0.001 to 10 % by weight of iodine, a photoinitiator as a crosslinking agent and a polyfunctional unsaturated compound as a crosslinking aid. That is, "iodine and/or bromine" has been limited to -- iodine--.

In the present invention, by using a photoinitiator as a crosslinking agent and a polyfunctional unsaturated compound as a crosslinking agent with the polymer containing iodine, crosslinking with ultraviolet rays becomes possible and application in a working site at a low temperature is facilitated. As described at page 9, lines 5-6 of the specification, by using a polymer containing iodine, the crosslinking reaction tends to easily occur, in comparison to a polymer containing bromine.

Turning to the prior art, Ruepping generally discusses the possibility of copolymerizing a monomer containing bromine or iodine, but none of the 22 working examples of Ruepping describe a polymer composition meeting the terms of present claim 1. Furthermore, Ruepping does not recognize or otherwise disclose the advantage of employing a polymer containing

iodine to thereby promote the crosslinking reaction as compared to one containing bromine.

Therefore, the present claims are neither anticipated nor obvious over Ruepping, and withdrawal of the foregoing rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 8 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Li (U.S. Patent 5,169,902 to Yagi et al.), as evidenced by JP 59-20310 (JP '310) or JP 53-125491 (JP '491). Example 1 of Yagi et al. was cited as disclosing a composition comprising a polyfunctional acrylate, a photoinitiator and an iodine-containing fluoroelastomer.

Applicants respectfully traverse for the following reasons.

In Yagi et al., an iodine-containing fluoroelastomer is not specifically described, although specific examples of the fluoroelastomer are described in JP '491 and JP '310. In Example 1 of Yagi et al., camphorquinone is used as the photoinitiator, but as evident from the description "irradiated with visible rays for photopolymerization", camphorquinone is used for polymerization of methylmethacrylate and not for crosslinking. Also, after photopolymerization, as evident from the description "heat-treated at 160°C for 10 minutes to crosslink the rubber", conventional thermal crosslinking, not crosslinking with ultraviolet rays of the present invention, is conducted.

That is, the present invention differs from Yagi et al. in that in Yagi et al. crosslinking is conducted by conventional thermal treatment and not by exposure with ultraviolet rays as recited in present claim 1. Therefore, the present claims are not anticipated by Yagi et al., and withdrawal of the foregoing rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,286,048 to Merrill et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse for the following reasons.

Merrill et al. discloses a process for preparing a composition comprising a polymer containing bromine, an unsaturated monomer and a photoinitiator. However, Merrill et al. does not describe a polymer containing iodine. The present invention differs from Merrill et al. in that a polymer containing iodine, which enables the crosslinking reaction to easily occur, is used. Therefore, the present invention is not anticipated by Merrill et al., and withdrawal of the foregoing rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of claims 1-11 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/069,791

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Respectfully submitted,



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